



THE DIPPER

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Editor: Margaret McDole

Assistant Editor: Mark Meremonte

Evergreen Nature Center Benefit

Save June 11 for the Evergreen Nature Center Benefit. There will be music, good food and friends getting together for a good cause. See details on page 3.

Silent Auction

We are looking for a few more useful, unusual, beautiful or humorous items for the silent auction at the Nature Center benefit. Contact Michael Stills at 303-330-0489.

Join Us at Upcoming TENAS Meetings

- July 11. Annual TENAS Picnic
- Aug. 6. Laura Archuleta of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will report on her work using American Dippers as indicators of water quality.

Double Dipper

The next issue will include both July and August.

BYO Cups

Please help us prevent waste by bringing your own cup or mug to TENAS meetings.

Project ColonyWatch— Monitoring Birds in the West

Jason Beason, special monitoring projects coordinator at the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, will join us at our June 4 meeting to discuss Project ColonyWatch.

This project monitors a variety of colonially breeding bird species including the Black Swift, American White Pelican, White-faced Ibis and Black-crowned Night-Heron.

Project ColonyWatch is coordinated by the Rocky Mountain Bird

Observatory and is made possible through the efforts of nonprofit conservation organizations, landowners and professional wildlife biologists.

These participants gather information about colony size and location, as well as potential threats. Some colonies require careful, scientific monitoring methods, but the vast majority needs only the ability to recognize the species and to follow a simple monitoring protocol.

Resource managers use these important data for planning and assessment of long-term conservation efforts.

Many ColonyWatch volunteers incorporate their observations with other interests. Boating enthusiasts and fisherman monitor grebe and heron nesting sites. Backpackers and mountaineers enjoy hiking to waterfalls to visit Black Swift nesting colonies.



Egret with small chicks at the nest. Photo by Bill Schmoker

These and many other sites offer spectacular opportunities for outdoor recreation such as birding and photography.

Jason received a bachelor's degree from Ohio State University (1990), where he majored in natural resources. He has worked on a wide variety of projects involving birds in eight Western states and has conducted bird surveys in locations as remote as the Frank Church Wilderness Area in Idaho and as urban as "the strip" in Las Vegas, Nev.

Join us Thursday, June 4, to learn more about Project ColonyWatch. Guests are welcome. Our meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road (just west of the Evergreen Library) in the downstairs Fellowship Hall. Refreshments and a business meeting will follow the program.



President's Message

Field Trips

I encourage anyone (doesn't have to be a bird expert) to consider offering a field trip to an interesting spot. You don't have to be the most expert birder; you do need to find a location and be willing to keep the count of birds. People who attend can enjoy identifying the birds seen.

Please call Mike Foster, 303-456-2647, to confirm. And remember that the June *Dipper* is a single issue; the next one will be a Double *Dipper*, July and August, so plan ahead.

Board Meeting Notes

At the April board meeting, the board decided to explore collaborating with the North Evergreen Activity Trails group. The project involves educational signage and rest areas along the Troublesome Gulch wetland meadow trails adjacent to

Bergen Parkway, near the fire station. Audubon was asked to provide information about habitat and wildlife.

The board also voted to begin an annual funding campaign to support our many projects.

Our former president, Dave Balogh, and his wife, former board member Caroline Fraker, will be moving to Buena Vista soon. Dave and Caroline have given much to TENAS over the years. We will miss the leadership, warmth, hard work and humor they provided.

Dave's departure will leave the Audubon Colorado representative slot open. I started to write that it would be hard to ask someone to follow in Dave's footsteps, and then I realized that, in fact, I did and yes, it was. Nevertheless, anyone inter-

Continued on Page 3



• To **Don Marshall** for installing the shelving in the closet at the Nature Center, thereby increasing the utility of the small space.

• To **Debbie Marshall** for volunteering to coordinate communications among Nature Center volunteers.

• To **Susan Harper** for organizing our effort to furnish and staff our booth at Earth Day. Alas, the weather was against us and the event was cancelled. But we recognize and appreciate the preliminary work by Susan and others willing to help.

• To **Marilyn Kaussner** and **Sylvia Robertson** for helping with the mailing of the new campaign letter.

• To **Deb Callahan** for encouraging the Evergreen Park and Recreation District to install signs at Evergreen Lake warning people to stay out of bird-nesting territory during nesting season.

• To **Pat Shea** and **Heart Cameron** of the Park and Rec District for making possible the installation of the Brockner bench on a new build-out at the lake in time for Dawn Chorus.

• To **Sylvia Brockner** and **Karel Buckley** for organizing another successful Dawn Chorus. We had a good turnout of people, birds and refreshments despite early foggy weather. And Sherman Wing took outstanding pictures.

• To the following people for presenting programs through the Nature Center: **John Sears** of the Evergreen Wild Bird Store for putting on his program, "Attracting Birds that Don't Eat Seed"; **Brad Andres** for his class, "Birding by Ear"; and **Lynne Price, Sylvia Brockner** and **Else Van Erp** for leading their Flower Walk at Lair o' the Bear.

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Nature Center Plans Annual Benefit

Join us Thursday, June 11, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Evergreen Lake House for our annual benefit for Evergreen Nature Center. Last year everyone had such a good time, we decided to do it again.

We will have live music by the Richard Ball and Paul Mimplitsch duo "Concept" to set the mood. Enjoy Chicken Dijon for dinner and appetizers—both provided by In Good Taste, along with beer and wine.

We are sure you will have fun swapping stories with your tablemates and

bidding on great items during our silent and live auctions. For you early birds, the Nature Center will be open for tours from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and then the fun begins.

Contact Michael Stills at 303-330-0489 to order your tickets. But order your tickets before June 5 as space is limited to the first 150 guests.

Tickets are \$60 per guest but if you would like to be a patron of the event, for \$85 or more we will recognize you in our evening program guide.

And remember, even if you can't attend, a donation will go a long way toward helping our mission to foster contagious enthusiasm and life-long respect for the natural world by providing fun and inspiring educational experiences throughout the Bear Creek Watershed.

Won't you join us?

Contact Michael Stills, Evergreen Nature Center executive director, P.O. Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437. Work: 303-330-0489, cell: 303-921-1936, www.evergreennaturecenter.org.

Weed Season Has Arrived!

The Community Weed Awareness Campaign is entering its 12th year, still going and growing. We are pleased to announce that we've been awarded a Pulling for Colorado (P4C) Weed Grant for our educational outreach and weeding at Evergreen Lake.

These funds will help us buy the materials we need to continue our outreach and also to place some noxious weed advertisements in the newspaper. We would like to thank Pulling for Colorado and the Colorado Weed Management Association for their support of our all-volunteer effort.

2008 was a huge success with our dedicated volunteers logging 225.5 active weeding and 291 community outreach hours. Since we can't rest on our laurels, we have a number of upcoming events scheduled. So get your pen and mark your calendars. We need you!

Our "Weed of the Month" display at the Nature Center currently features a perennial favorite, Mrytle spurge, which was also the focus of our first ad in Mountain Lifestyles. If you don't already recognize this obnoxious weed, stop by the Nature Center for a look and informational flyers.

Betsy Kelson and Cathy Shelton will present the "Garden Smart" program at Evergreen Nature Center on Saturday, May 30, from 10 a.m. to noon. They will discuss escaped ornamental weeds,

plants appropriate for mountain gardens and warning signs to look for at the nursery.

Don't plant the next obnoxious invader in your yard! Registration is required; call 303-330-0489 or go to www.dipper.org. This class filled up last year, so register soon.

On Saturday, June 13, CWAC will join Clear Creek County Weed Manager Ted Brown at the Idaho Springs Safeway to talk to shoppers about noxious weed identification and control. Stop by between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. You can also bring in plants for identification.

The premier weed event of the year, Community Weed Day, will be Saturday, June 27, from 8 to 11 a.m. at Evergreen Lake. Our volunteers have made an immense difference in the weed density at the lake, so we hope you will join us for this fun and important event.

Please bring water bottles to minimize the need for plastic, but we will have water available for refills. All volunteers will receive the revised "Colorado Noxious Weeds" book as a thank-you. Consider passing your old version to a neighbor, bringing it to at Weed Day or dropping it off at the Nature Center for reuse.

In addition to weeding at the lake, we will also have a display of local weeds along with experts who can identify plants and discuss control options. Re-

mind your friends and neighbors of this opportunity to learn more about weeds.

Be sure to watch for our ads and articles in Mountain Lifestyles, an insert in the Courier, High Timber Times and Clear Creek Courant, the second Wednesday of each month. If you have questions, e-mail Cathy at sheltonpublicaddress@hotmail.com.

- CWAC

President's Message

Continued from Page 2

ested in taking on this role, please contact me.

TENAS was notified that Gary Graham is no longer executive director of Audubon Colorado, due to budgetary constraints. Our board was very sorry to learn of his departure.

Bird Business

For now, we will continue to have members notify the *Dipper* editor of bird sightings and to share their information at the chapter meetings. But most of us still miss calling in our reports to Bill Brockner and hearing his enthusiastic response, whether about a chickadee or a Northern Goshawk.

- Peggy Durham



Bird Business

April was snowy and cold and some migrating birds may have not paused here long, but continued on their way.

Sylvia Brockner was treated to a flock of about a dozen Evening Grosbeaks at her feeder. Now a Cooper's Hawk has stationed itself nearby and this keeps other birds away.

An elk was reported breaking the eggs of a ground-nesting bird and eating them. Sylvia has never seen this happen, and would be interested in hearing from anyone who has seen this. Call her at 303-674-4851 to report this or any other interesting bird sightings.

On a trip to New York City, Kathanne Lynch saw the Red-tail Hawk, Pale Male, and his mate, Lola, at their celebrated Fifth Avenue apartment house nest. Lola started sitting on eggs in early April.

On a late April trip to Red Rocks Park, Sherman Wing spotted a Gray Flycatcher foraging in bushes, a probable Broad-winged Hawk in a cottonwood tree, Broadtailed Hummingbird, Say's Phoebe, Mountain Bluebird and Western Meadowlark.

Deb Callahan and Dave Jones saw a Golden Eagle soaring above their house. Evenings they have heard a Great-horned Owl in the direction of Upper Bear Creek.

The Dawn Chorus tallied 41 species in spite of a chilly, foggy start to the day. Early-bird photographers snapped some great photos.



American Avocet foraging along the boat launch at Evergreen Lake. Photo by Sherman Wing



Red-tailed Hawks perched on a snag at Dedisse Park. Photo by Sherman Wing



Redwing Blackbird. Photo by Dave Balogh



15th Dawn Chorus is Huge Success

The International Dawn Chorus began in 1984 in England for the purpose of a worldwide celebration of nature's daily miracle, the dawn chorus of bird song. TENAS began its count listening in 1994 at Evergreen Lake.

The morning of May 3, 2009, was 37 degrees at 4:45 a.m. and overcast with low clouds. By 8 a.m. the sun was shining bright and warm. The five Western Grebes that had been at the lake for several days were still there for us to see along with a wonderful American Avocet.

The total species count was 41 and there were 55 participants. We celebrated the dedication of the new memorial bench in honor of Bill Brockner, which is located on the boardwalk. It will be a great place for us to sit and reflect on our lovely jewel of a lake.

Refreshments in the Nature Center once again were the perfect ending to our very special morning, which warmed up to 55 degrees by 10 a.m.

Thank you to Sylvia for assisting me and to Tory Hurst for helping with the sign-in clipboards; she was a huge help recording the day's events. Appreciation to all who brought goodies to share; we finished them up at the TENAS monthly meeting the following Thursday.

Species we identified this day were Canada Goose, Mallard, Western Grebe, Doubled-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Avocet, Spotted Sandpiper, Mourning Dove, Broad-



Sylvia Brockner looks for birds from the Bill Brockner Memorial Bench at Evergreen Lake. Photo by Karel Buckley

tailed Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Williamson's Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Stellar's Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Tree Swallow, Violet-green Swallow, Barn Swallow, Mountain Chickadee, Pigmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Western Bluebird, American Robin, American Pipit, Yellow-rumped Warbler – Audubon's sp., Yel-

low-rumped Warbler – Myrtle sp., Chipping Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Cassin's Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin and House Sparrow.

Since 1994 we have had, on this one day, a variety of 93 species. Isn't that great!

We have not seen our infamous Sora on the Dawn Chorus day for the last three years.

The Common Yellowthroat seemed to show up every two to three years but not this year.

Sylvia and I are passing the binoculars to someone else to organize this event next year. Thank you all for the fun the last five years. It was great, and through snow and sunshine we all persisted!

- Karel Buckley & Sylvia Brockner

Nature Center Needs Volunteers

Evergreen Nature Center, which offers free exhibits and information about our local environment at Evergreen Lake, is seeking volunteer visitor assistants.

About 10 more visitor assistants are needed to work a minimum of two three-hours shifts a month.

VAs greet visitors and are available to answer questions and provide access to information about plants and animals in the Bear Creek Watershed.

Volunteers do not have to be extremely knowledgeable about nature, but an ability to work with people and a willingness to learn are necessary. Training for the position is provided one-on-one or in small groups.

VAs either open or close the Nature Center and are responsible for some re-

cord-keeping and for selling items in the small gift shop. But mostly they help visitors enjoy our natural world and learn a little something about how to take care of it.

Visitor assistants also sign up people who call or come in to register for the free programs and classes offered through the Nature Center.

Starting May 30, Nature Center hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday and volunteer shifts are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

To learn more about volunteering as a visitor assistant, go to evergreennaturecenter.org or call Executive Director Michael Stills at 303-330-0489.

There is a link to an application for visitor assistant on the website.

"A good leg will fall. A straight back will stoop. A black beard will turn white. A curled pate will grow bald. A fair face will wither. A full eye will wax hollow. But a good heart is the sun and the moon, for it shines bright and never changes, but keeps its course truly."

- William Shakespeare
Henry V - Act Five,
Scene Two, Line 16



Botany Group Sets Activities

Contact Lynne Price at 303-670-0840 or trailwalker63@hotmail.com for details or for last-minute changes due to weather or flower location. You may add your name to our e-mail list to be notified of future activities.

- May 29, Friday, noon. Meet Sylvia Brockner and the Posey Posse in the Meyer Ranch parking lot. We will be viewing late spring flowers and hopefully, a Calypso Orchid or two.
- June 5, Friday noon. Join Sylvia Brockner and the Posey Posse at Reynolds Park for a great flower viewing opportunity.
- June 12, Friday, noon. Keying and a little tree study at Sylvia's house.
- June 19, Friday, noon. Site to be decided.



Colorado Blue Columbine, *Aquilegia coerulea*. Photo by Mark Meremonte

Bird and Wildlife Emergency Numbers

Wild Bird Information Rehabilitation of Denver

Wild Bird Rehab—all birds large and small except raptors. S. Quebec Place, Denver, 303-751-5385

Greenwood Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

303-823-8455

Birds of Prey Foundation

Raptors and owls, 303 460 0674

Colorado Division of Wildlife, 303-271-7227

Injured or baby deer, elk, bear, mountain lion or bat. Colorado State Patrol, 303-239-4501, will respond when CDOW is busy or on off hours.

CSU Extension Center Wildlife Masters program

For wildlife questions (Monday-Friday), 303-271-6620 or 303-730-1920

Jefferson County Animal Control

303-271-5070

Park County Animal Control

719-836-4380

Clear Creek County Animal Control

303-679-2398

CDOW Bats in Mines Project

303-291-7501 or CDOW main line, 303-297-1192

Urban Wildlife Rescue Organization

Bats and other species rehab and removal, 303-340-4911

Bear Creek Atlas Sites and Leaders

Sites and leaders for the 2009 Bear Creek Watershed Breeding Bird Atlas Program (BCA). Contact the leaders to learn when surveying at these sites will take place. Beginners welcome.

This is a great way to learn the birds of our vicinity. More information at www.bcwbba.org.

Bell Park

Deb Callahan, upperbearDEB@earthlink.net 303-674-4923

Cub Creek Park

Larry White, llarrywhite@msn.com 303-674-0535

Flying J Ranch Park

Dave Balogh, david3drb@netscape.net 303-679-2799

Genesee Park

Inga Brennan, missing35mm@aol.com 720-746-1780

Hayden Green Mountain Park

Mike Foster, mike1.foster@comcast.net 303-456-2647

Mount Goliath Trail

Fran Enright, franenright@earthlink.net 303-674-2657

Mount Judge & Snyder Mountain

Fran Enright: see above

Red Rocks Park

Susan Harper, sharper74@msn.com 303-670-9377

Truesdell Creek Trail, aka Beartrack Lakes Trail

Brad Andres, heatherbrad1@yahoo.com 303-670-0101



June Classes and Programs

Friday, June 5
Flower Walk at Reynolds Park
Leader: Sylvia Brockner

Join the Audubon Flower Group on an early summer flower walk. Meet at Reynolds Park parking lot. Noon-2 p.m. No registration required. No class size limit. Ages: 10-plus.

Saturday, June 6
Attract More Hummingbirds
Leader: John Sears,
owner of Evergreen Wild Bird Store

Learn how to attract more hummingbirds to your backyard. Meet at Evergreen Wild Bird Store. 9-10 a.m. Limited seating. Advance registration required, 303-679-2786.

Saturday, June 13
Summer Flowers at Evergreen Lake
Leader: Lynne Price

Take a walk around the lake to discover and identify summer flowers. Meet at the Nature Center. 3-5 p.m. Class size limited. Advance registration required, 303-330-0489. Ages: 15-plus.

Friday, June 19
Stargazing
Leader: Pam Little

Learn how to read the night sky and hear star facts and stories. View celestial objects through telescopes. Dress for outdoors and bring binoculars and camping-type chair or blanket. Meet behind Evergreen Lake House. 9-11 p.m. Class size limited. Advance registration required, 303-330-0489. Ages: 3-plus.

For information, visit www.evergreennaturecenter.org. To register, phone 303-330-0489.

CDOW Volunteer Opportunities

The Colorado Division of Wildlife is seeking volunteers to assist with two projects: the Mt. Evans Sheep and Goat count and the Georgetown Bighorn Sheep Project.

The Mt. Evans Sheep and Goat count will be held on July 21, with participants backpacking or horse-packing in the day prior. Five Georgetown Bighorn Sheep Project resighting surveys of tagged sheep will be conducted on July 13, 15, 17, 24 and 28.

Each of the Mt. Evans and Georgetown events will last one day, starting around sunup and ending early after-

noon. For more information, or to request the signup form, please con-

tact Sherri Huwer of CDOW at sherri.huwer@state.co.us.

Our Every Day Savings Programs Include:

- Free Seed Bag After 10 Purchased On Wild Delight & Petersen Blends (or) Instant 8% off when you buy any two bags
- Save on Suet - 10% off w/6 cakes or 12% off by the case
- Vortex Optics at Max Allowable Discount Every Day - we match internet pricing on Vortex Optics



32156 Castle Ct. Evergreen
303.679.2786
Open 7 Days a Week
Mon-Fri 10-6; Sat 10-5; Sun 10-4
evergreenwildbirdstore.com

Membership

We thank the new and renewing TENAS local members for their support.

Renewing
Warren Roske— Golden
David Walker— Indian Hills

Calendar

- June 4 Chapter Meeting
- June 5 Flower Walk at Reynolds Park (Nature Center Program)
- June 6 Attract More Hummingbirds (Nature Center Program)
- June 11 Evergreen Nature Center Benefit
- June 12 Plant Keying and Tree Study (Botany Group)
- June 13 Summer Flowers at Evergreen Lake (Nature Center Program)
- June 19 Stargazing (Nature Center Program)
- July 11 TENAS Picnic

Monthly Meetings (except January and July)

First Thursday at 7 p.m.
Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road, 7 p.m.

Audubon Colorado Office 303-415-0130
www.auduboncolorado.org

TENAS website: www.dipper.org

The deadline for the July/August Double Dipper is Thursday, June 4
Please submit articles to: Margaret McDole, editor@dipper.org

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The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society
Local Membership Application
Please enroll me/us in The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society. I/we may participate in all chapter activities, receive *The Dipper* newsletter, and vote (both Family members may vote) on chapter issues. Dues remain local.

Individual (\$20) Family (\$30) Student (\$10)
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- Nature Center Benefit
- Weed Season Starts
- Classes and Programs

In This Issue

Time Dated Material

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